

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information service search support apparatus comprising:
 - a temporary search unit configured to, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, search a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to the contents of each service; and
 - search condition item extracting means for extracting at least one of an information item related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and a value of the information item, from the registry and notifying the agent of at least of the information item extracted and the value extracted, together with the result of the search made by the temporary search unit.
2. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by common category, the information item names and/or item values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and notifies the agent of the result.

3. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by common category, the information item names and/or item values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit.

4. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, the information item names and/or item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.

5. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of the information item names and/or item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

6. An information service search apparatus for searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, comprising:

25 an information service search support section; and a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said

plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to the contents of each service, wherein

the information service search support section

5 includes

a temporary search unit configured to, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for the desired information service, search the registry; and

10 search condition item extracting means for extracting at least one of an information item related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and a value of the information item, from the registry and notifying the agent of at least of the 15 information item extracted and the value extracted, together with the result of the search made by the temporary search unit.

7. The information service search apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the search condition item 20 extracting means classifies, by common category, the information item names and/or item values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and notifies the agent of the result.

8. The information service search apparatus 25 according to claim 7, wherein the search condition item extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by common category, the information item names and/or item

values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit.

9. The information service search apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the search condition
5 item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, the information item names and/or item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.

10. The information service search apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of the information item names and/or item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its
15 frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

11. An information service search method of searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on
20 a network, comprising:

a first step of, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for the desired information service, searching, on the basis of the search request, a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said
25 plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to

the contents of each service; and

5 a second step of extracting at least one of an information item related to the information service retrieved in the first step and a value of the information item, from the registry and notifying the agent of at least of the information item extracted and the value extracted, together with the result of the search in the first step.

10 12. The information service search method according to claim 11, wherein the second step is a step of classifying, by common category, the item values for the information items related to the information service retrieved in the first step and notifying the agent of the result.

15 13. The information service search method according to claim 12, wherein the second step is a step of using ontology trees to classify, by common category, the item values for the information items related to the information service retrieved in the first step.

20 14. The information service search method according to claim 12, wherein the second step includes a third step of classifying, by the frequency of appearance, the keywords included in the item values classified by category and notifying the agent of the result.

25 15. The information service search method

according to claim 14, wherein the second step is
a step of determining the qualification of each of
the keywords classified by the frequency of appearance
in the third step, on the basis of its frequency of
5 appearance and notifying the agent of the result.